

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 34, 59, and 65.

Kindly add claim 66 to this application:

66. A filtering face mask that comprises:
- (a) a mask body that is adapted to fit over the nose and mouth of a wearer; and
 - (b) an exhalation valve that is positioned on the mask body substantially opposite to a wearer's mouth, the exhalation valve comprising:
 - (1) a valve seat that comprises:
 - (i) a seal surface; and
 - (ii) an orifice that is circumscribed by the seal surface;
 - (2) a single flexible flap that is secured to the valve seat and that has a non-centrally disposed stationary portion and a free portion and a peripheral edge that includes a stationary segment and a free segment, the stationary segment of the peripheral edge being associated with the non-central stationary portion of the flap so as to remain at rest during an exhalation, and the free segment being associated with the free portion of the flexible flap so as to be lifted away from the seal surface during an exhalation, the free portion also being located below the non-central stationary portion when the filtering face mask is worn on a person, wherein the flexible flap would normally assume a flat configuration when not secured to the valve seat and having no forces applied to it but when secured to the valve seat and viewed without a fluid passing through the orifice, the flexible flap (i) has a curved profile when viewed from a side elevation in its secured position on the valve seat and (ii) is pressed towards the seal surface in an abutting relationship therewith.